GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5316
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2000
PANEL ON IMPORT
SUKDEO PASWAN;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a panel in the Prime Minister`s Office to monitor the imports;

(b) if so, the composition of the panel;

(c) whether any guideline has been formulated for the functioning of this panel;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the said panel has submitted any report so far; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (f) : Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary on 28.07.2000, to assess the likely impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and to suggest suitable corrective measures.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Ministry of Information Technology, Department of Chemical and Petro-chemicals, Department of Fertilizers , Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying have been represented in the Group.
The Group has already met thrice on 17.8.2000, on 8.9.2000 and 0n 14.12.2000 and made its interim recommendations. Based on these recommendations the following steps to regulate imports have already been notified through Notification No. 44(RE-2000)/97-2002 dated 24.11.2000 :

1. Import of all packaged commodities has been made subject to compliance of all the conditions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977, as applicable on domestic producers.

2. Import of 131 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirement all manufacturers/ exporters of these products to India shall be required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS).The list of 131 products includes various food preservatives and additives, milk powder, infant milk food, certain kinds of cement, house hold and similar electrical appliances, gas cylinders and multipurpose dry batteries.

The Group is expected to make its final recommendations before the end of the year.